

AKIRA

21

TM



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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THE RAGE AND
THE TURBENT

AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 21

THE RAGE AND THE TORMENT

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

Twenty-thirty. The world stands poised at the edge of World War IV. An explosion of thermonuclear proportions has been set off in **Neo-Tokyo**. The world, particularly the superpowers, wonders what has happened. In **Neo-Tokyo**, in a section known as the "old city", a band of teen-aged delinquents led by **Kaneda** encounters **Number 26**, a child named **Takashi** who uses extraordinary telekinetic abilities to injure **Tetsuo**, one of Kaneda's close friends.

As a result, **Kaneda** and **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious military and scientific organization led by the **Colonel** and an underground resistance group bent on putting a stop to the Colonel's activities.

Among the resistance, **Kaneda** meets **Kay**—a girl he alternately maddens and tries to seduce—and Kay's "brother" **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**. Other important resistance leaders include Ryu's superior—the opposition

leader **Nezu**—and a powerful religious leader with precognitive gifts, **Lady Miyako**.

The **Colonel** has a number of psychic children like **Number 26** under his control. Each child possesses a distinct set of psychic talents and is identified by a number marked on the hand. At one time **Lady Miyako** was **Number 19** in this series. **Number 28** is **Akira**, so powerful that since the war he has been suspended in cryogenic sleep.

The Colonel's staff conducts experiments which awaken tremendous telepathic potential in **Tetsuo**, who is redubbed **Number 41**. Able to shrug off the most serious injuries, **Tetsuo** goes on a killing spree, murdering one of Kaneda's friends and even attacking **Kaneda**. Then, followed by **Kay** and **Kaneda**, **Tetsuo** seeks out **Akira**, whose powers he thinks may rival his own.

Akira's power responds to Tetsuo's psychic energy. His cryogenic chamber cracks from within and **Akira** emerges, dazed after his long sleep.

Terrified of what may occur, the **Colonel** summons the powerful SOL military satellite and orders that its laser cannon be fired at **Tetsuo** and **Akira**. **Kay**



Chiyoko



Akira



Seer



Tetsuo

and **Kaneda** save **Akira**, but **Tetsuo** is less fortunate. The laser strikes his left arm.

Neo-Tokyo is placed in a state of military emergency following the disaster. "Caretaker robots" patrol the streets, dealing harshly with the looters and restoring order. The **Colonel** stages a successful coup d'état.

Nezu betrays the resistance, planning to kidnap and exploit **Akira**, but is thwarted by a team of young psychics trained by **Lady Miyako**. **Nezu** orders his men to kill Miyako's psychics and his own resistance fighters, and **Ryu** guns his former master down. **Ryu** leaves **Nezu** for dead.

Ultimately, **Sakaki**—the sole survivor of Lady Miyako's group—is cornered by the Colonel's troops, along with **Ryu**, **Akira**, **Kaneda**, **Kay**, and **Chiyoko**. **Sakaki** is killed trying to escape, but all seems well when **Takashi** fondly greets **Akira** and reintroduces him to their fellow psychics **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**. **Nezu** dying and determined for revenge, arrives and tries to kill **Akira**, killing **Takashi** instead.

The trauma of Takashi's death galvanizes **Akira**, who fully awakens and unleashes a coherent light blast powerful enough

to devastate the entire city. Acting quickly, **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** sweep most of the people in the area upward, and **Kaneda** is last seen vanishing toward the sky. In the wake of the disaster, **Lady Miyako** opens her temple and offers shelter and comfort to those in need, gathering large groups of followers in the east.

Neo-Tokyo is completely cut off from the rest of the outside world, and in the western part of the city the Great Tokyo Empire is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his Prime Minister. The Empire is eventually infiltrated by teams of spies sent from outside to learn what is happening in the city.

The **Colonel** is alone, living in hiding. **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels psychic powers, and **Kiyoko** tells **Kay** to find **Number 19**. The two meet with **Lady Miyako**, who gives them medicine to help **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**, and asks that **Kay** bring the other psychics to her.

Most of the spies from the outside are hunted down and killed. Only their leader, **Lt. Yamada**, escapes. When Tetsuo's followers are on the verge of catching **Yamada** again, **Ryu**



The Colonel



Kaori



Kiyoko



Tetsuo's Aide

appears and leads him to safety. **Ryu** attempts to gain Yamada's trust, but the **Lieutenant** refuses to tell **Ryu** who has sent him or let **Ryu** join him. **Yamada** does, however, reveal that Russia has conquered part of Japan, and that the Americans' fear of **Akira** makes them reluctant to get involved.

Taken from the breadline, three young girls are given to **Tetsuo** for his pleasure. He orders the girls to swallow capsules of mind-altering drugs. Only one girl—**Kaori**—who palmed her capsule survives. Under the influence of the drugs, **Tetsuo** relives his past, sees visions of the present and the possible future as well. Afterwards, believing that his mental resonance with **Akira** is responsible for the odd mental voyage, **Tetsuo** looks into the mind of his Emperor. He emerges a withdrawn, shuddering wreck. Once recovered, **Tetsuo** decides that **Lady Miyako**—whose mind he also briefly touched—may be able to explain matters to him. Taking a hefty dose of power-enhancing medication, **Tetsuo** teleports to the temple of the religious leader. **Lady Miyako** recounts to him the experiments decades earlier which created the numbered

psychics from human children. She states that the designations in the twenties were reserved for those of the greatest power.

Lady Miyako also reveals that the World War III began with a mental blast from **Akira** which destroyed Tokyo and killed the scientist who created the twenties group. Finally, she warns **Tetsuo** that he alone can control **Akira's** near-inconceivable powers; by giving up the drug crutch. Disgusted and perplexed, **Tetsuo** departs.

Kay and **Chiyoko** try to move **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** to **Lady Miyako's** temple. They are attacked by **Tetsuo's** followers, who escape with **Kiyoko**.

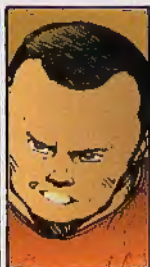
Chiyoko rescues the girl, but is badly wounded. Meanwhile **Kay**, carrying **Masaru** to safety, is harried by a street gang. Making short work of the one who corners her, **Kay** is met by **Lady Miyako's** followers and escorted with **Masaru** to the safety of the temple. **Chiyoko** is pursued into a rat-infested sewer, where she and **Kiyoko** are saved by the **Colonel**. **Chiyoko**, nearly unconscious, tells her former enemy where to find **Masaru**. She urges the **Colonel** to take **Kiyoko** to **Number 19**.



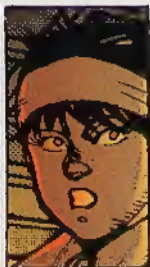
Ryu



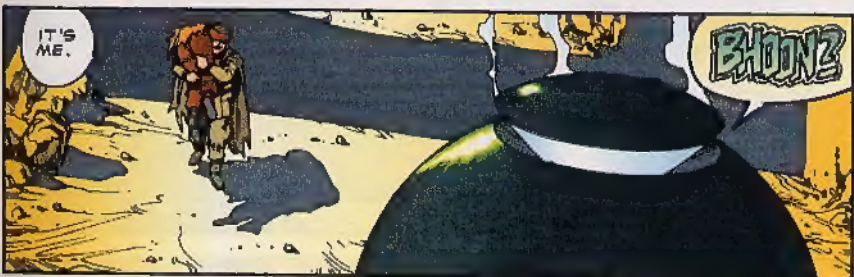
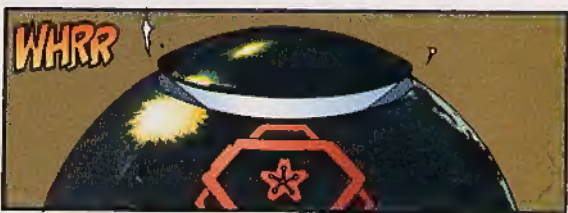
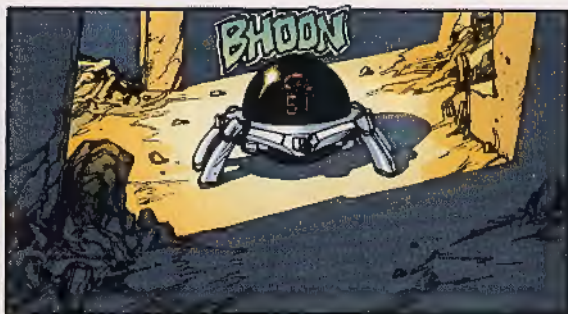
Lady Miyako

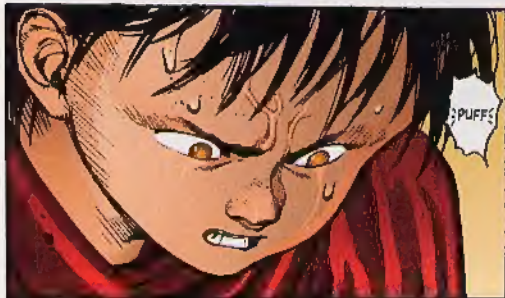
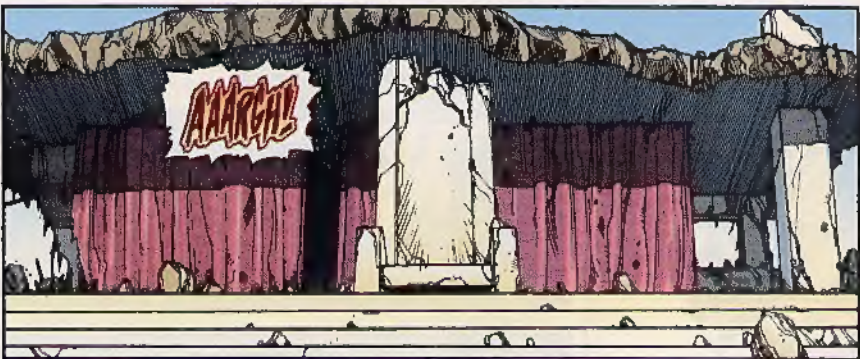


Lt. Yamada

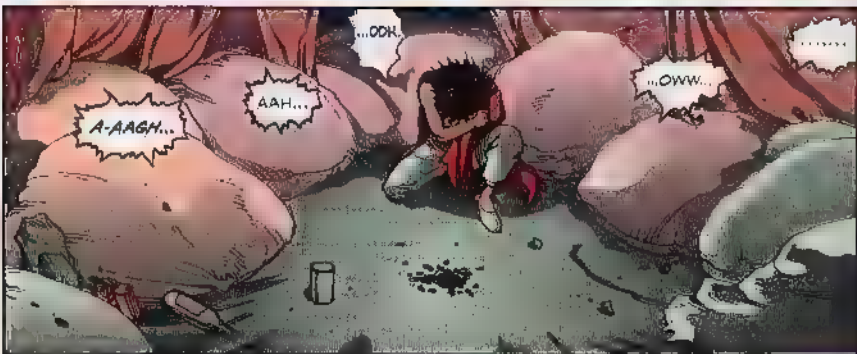
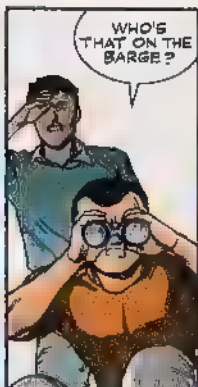
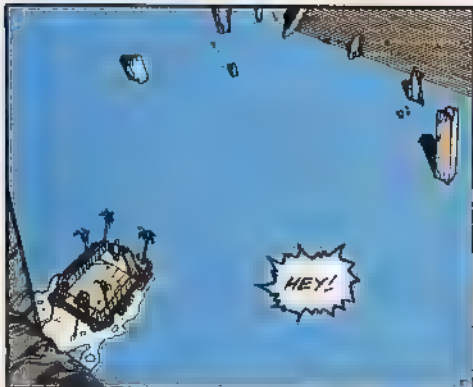


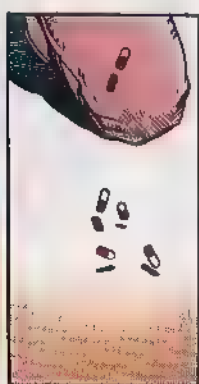
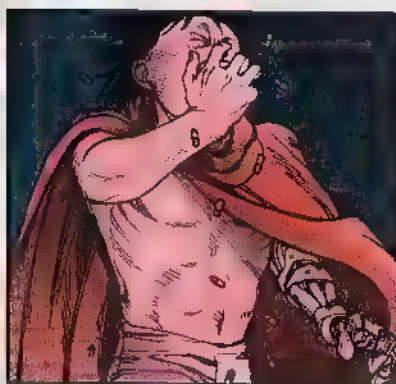
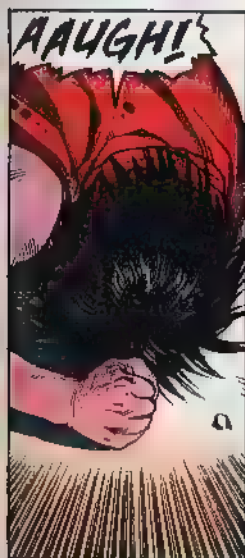
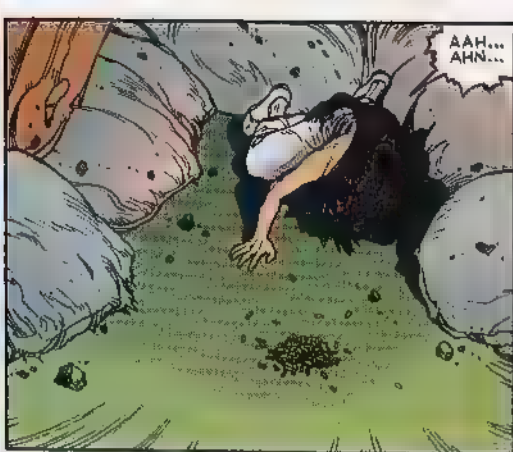
Kay

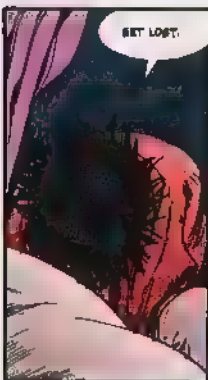
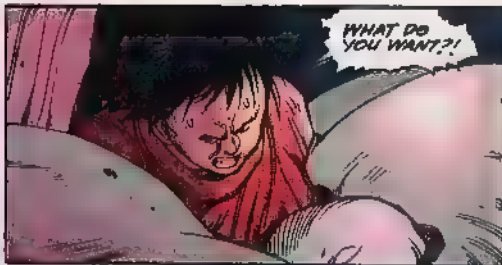










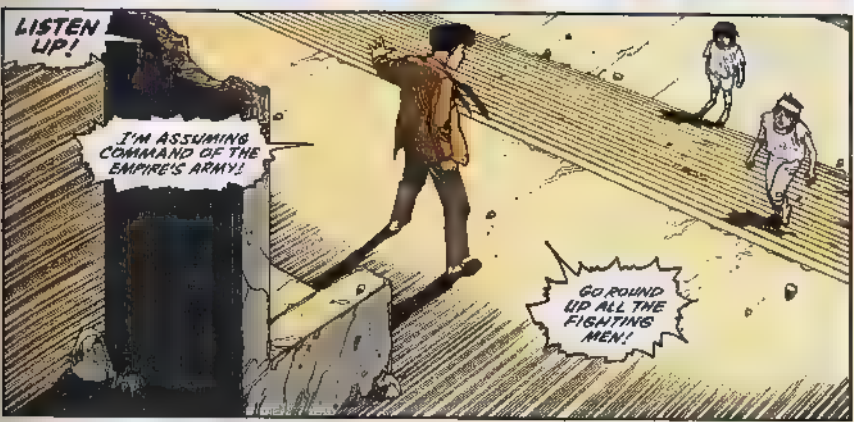
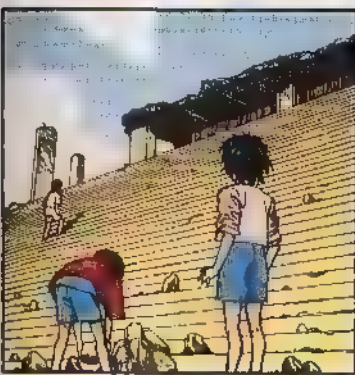
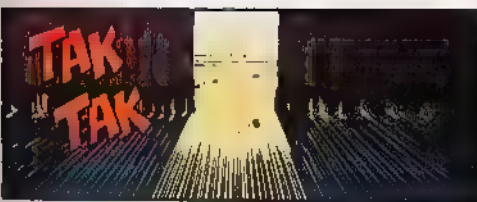


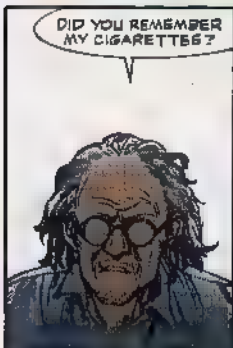
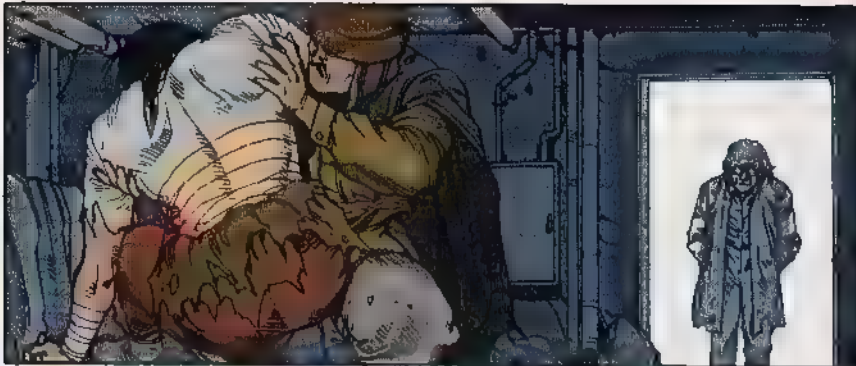
...LADY MIYAKO'S MEN...

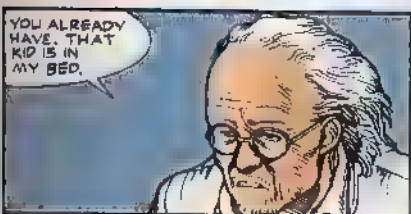
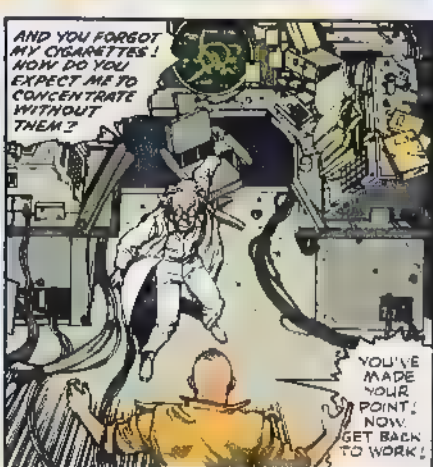
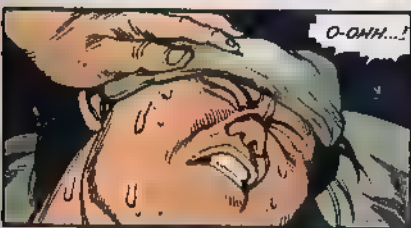


YESSIR!





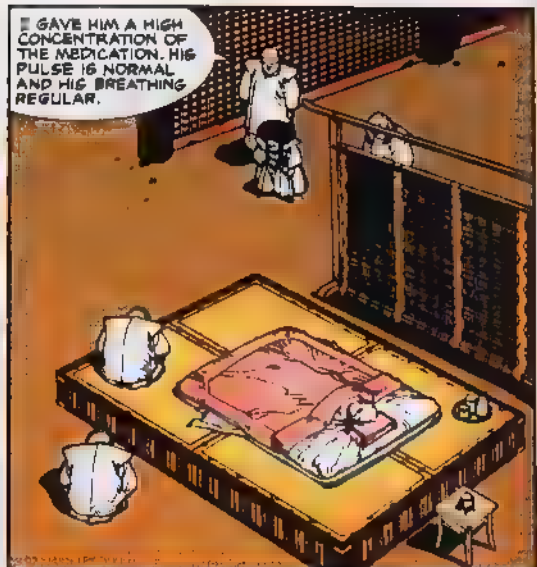




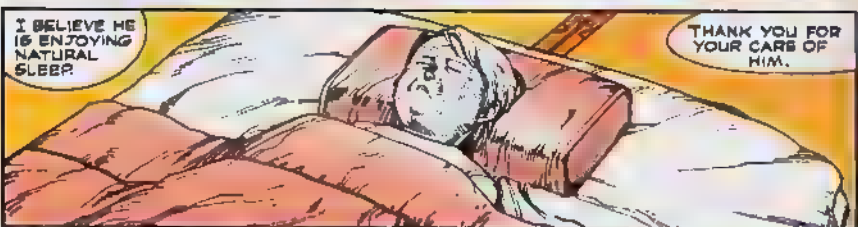


WHAT IS HIS CONDITION NOW?

STABLE LADY MIYAKO

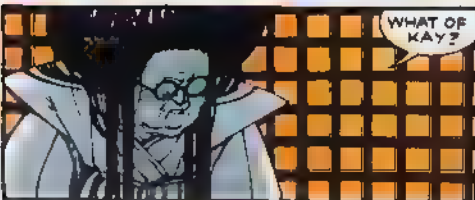


I GAVE HIM A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF THE MEDICATION. HIS PULSE IS NORMAL AND HIS BREATHING REGULAR.

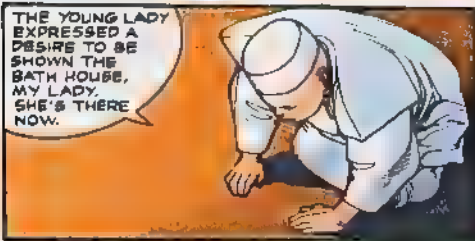


I BELIEVE HE IS ENJOYING NATURAL SLEEP.

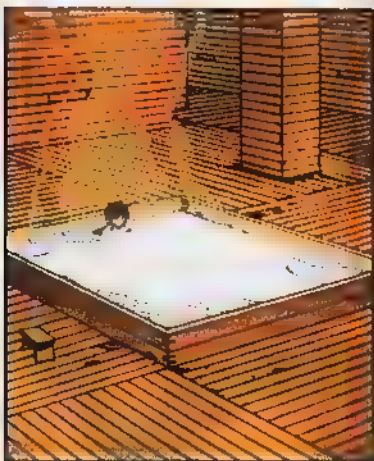
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARE OF HIM.

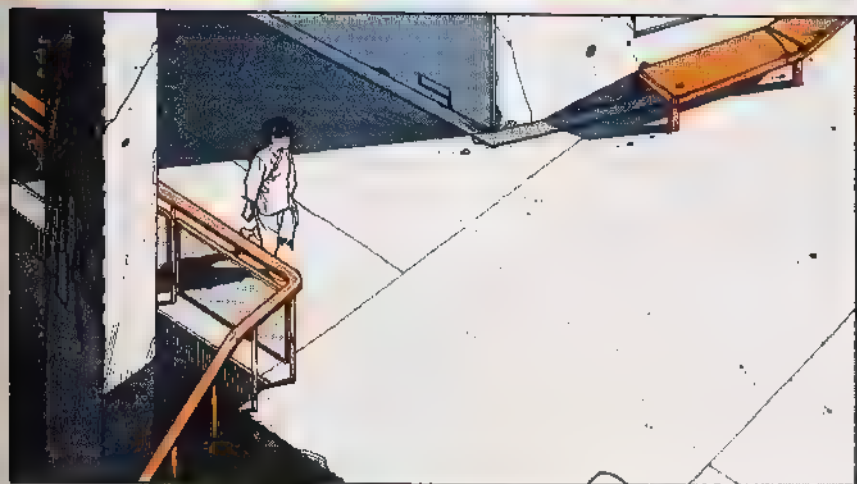
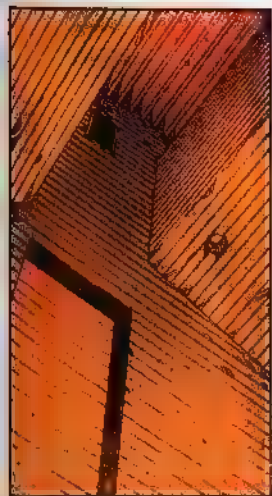


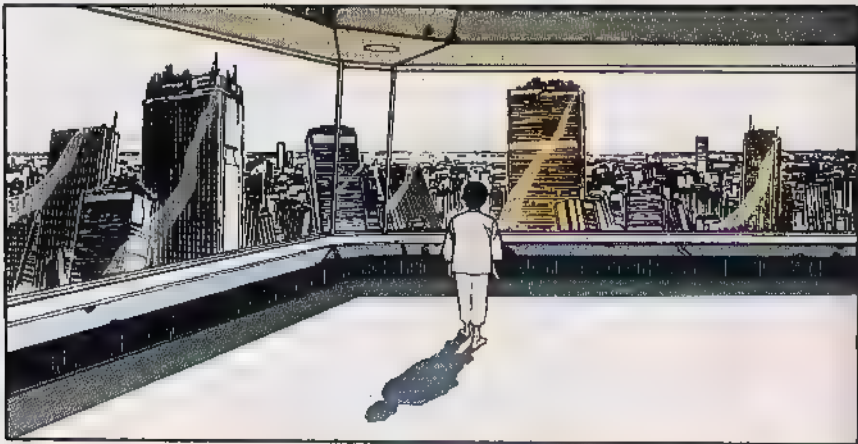
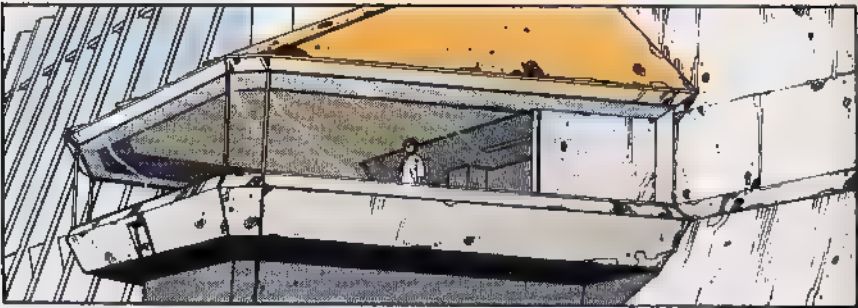
WHAT OF KAY?



THE YOUNG LADY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO BE SHOWN THE BATH HOUSE, MY LADY. SHE'S THERE NOW.











UNFORTU-
NATELY,
ALL WE
HAVE TO
OFFER
IS POOR
QUALITY
SYNTHETIC
FOOD.



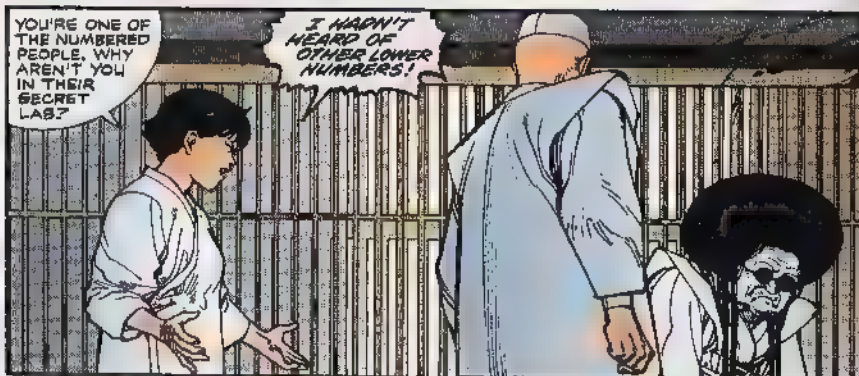
CAN I ASK YOU
SOMETHING?

WHAT
IS IT, MY
DEAR?



LADY MIYAKO
... I MEAN,
NUMBER
19...

WHY ARE
YOU...



YOU'RE ONE OF
THE NUMBERED
PEOPLE. WHY
AREN'T YOU
IN THEIR
SECRET
LAB?

I HADN'T
HEARD OF
OTHER LOWER
NUMBERS!



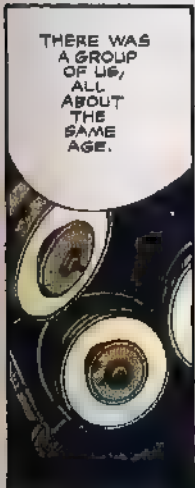
ONCE
DURING AN
EXPERIMENT...



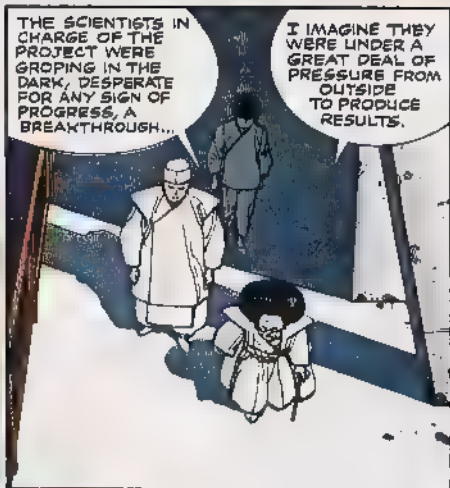
... I DIED.



I WAS
JUST TEN YEARS
OLD AT
THE
TIME.



THERE WAS
A GROUP
OF US,
ALL
ABOUT
THE
SAME
AGE.



THE SCIENTISTS IN
CHARGE OF THE
PROJECT WERE
GROPING IN THE
DARK, DESPERATE
FOR ANY SIGN OF
PROGRESS, A
BREAKTHROUGH...

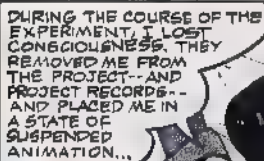
I IMAGINE THEY
WERE UNDER A
GREAT DEAL OF
PRESSURE FROM
OUTSIDE
TO PRODUCE
RESULTS.



THEY TOOK
CHANCES WITH
A VERY UN-
CERTAIN
PROCESS.



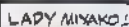
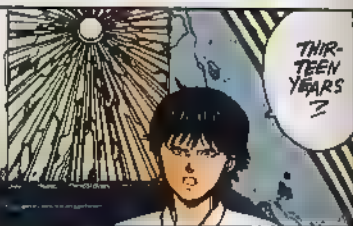
IN RETROSPECT, I
WOULD GUESS THAT
WE WERE THE
GUINEA PIGS FOR
THE WORK THAT
LED TO THE
CREATION OF
THE NUMBER
20s.



DURING THE COURSE OF THE EXPERIMENT, I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS. THEY REMOVED ME FROM THE PROJECT--AND PROJECT RECORDS--AND PLACED ME IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION...



...WHICH LASTED THIRTEEN YEARS.



LADY MIYAKO!



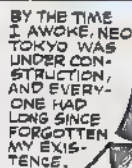
THIS IS AN HONOR



MY LADY!



THANK YOU, YOUR LADYSHIP!



BY THE TIME I AWOKED, NEO TOKYO WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND EVERYONE HAD LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN MY EXISTENCE.



THOSE WHO KNEW MY SECRET VANISHED WHEN TOKYO WAS DESTROYED!



I HAD A DREAM DURING THE LONG YEARS OF SLEEP!



A DREAM

IT WAS
COMPOSED OF
FRAGMENTARY
IMAGES...

...OF AKIRA...
NEO-TOKYO... TETSUO
AND HIS ALLIES...
THE FUTURE...
THE UNIVERSE...
AND OF YOU,
MY DEAR,
AND YOUR
YOUNG
FRIEND--
KANEDA.

...KANEDA?...

WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT
HIM?

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
WHERE IS HE?!

HE'S BEYOND
THE BOUND-
ARIES OF
THIS
WORLD.

TAK

LADY
MIYAKO

...FOR
NOW...

WE
ARE
HONORED.

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

THEY'VE
CALLED OUT
ALL THE
FIGHTING
MEN!

HURRY!

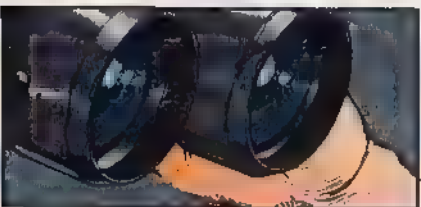
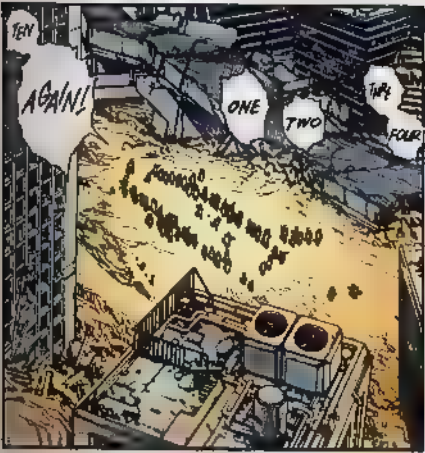
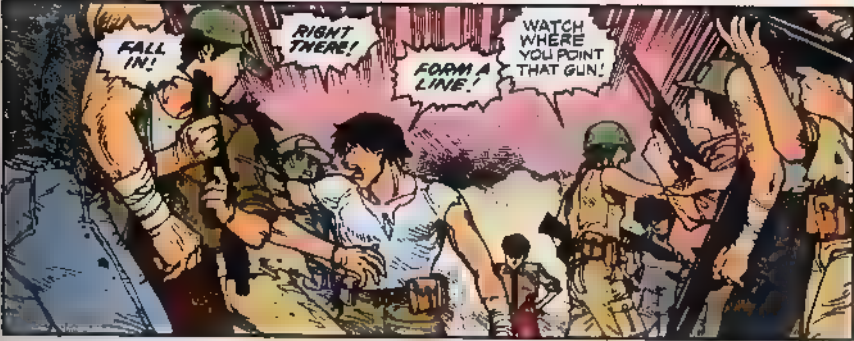
PUT!

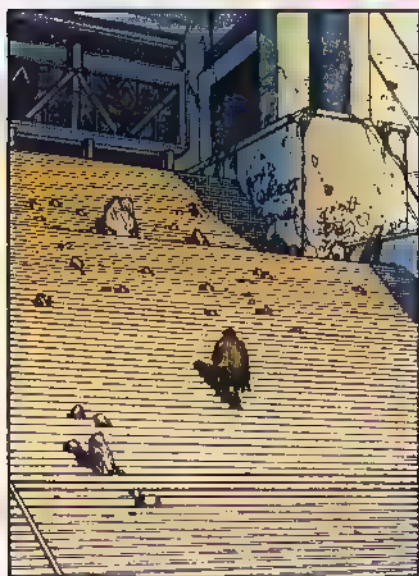
COME SHOW
WHAT IT MEANS
TO BE A
SOLDIER OF
THE EMPIRE!

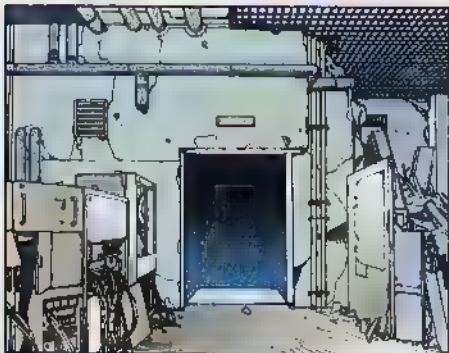
HURRY!

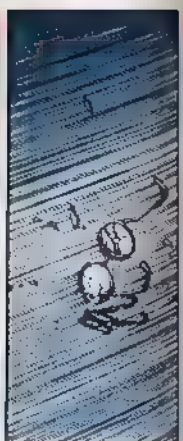
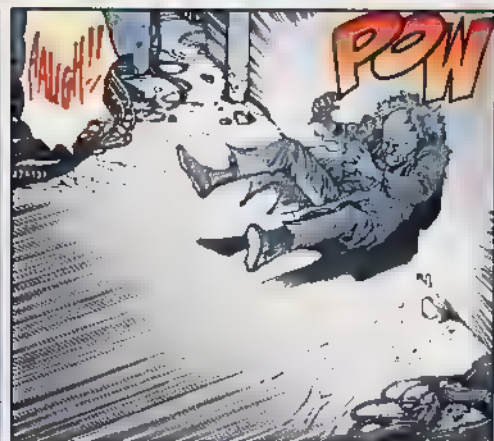
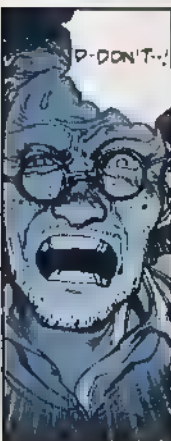
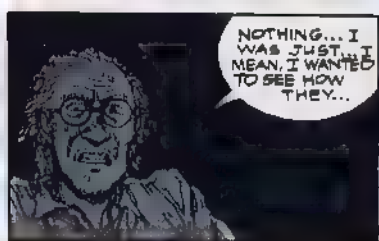
EVERYONE
TAKE A
GUN AND
COLLECT
SOME
AMMO.

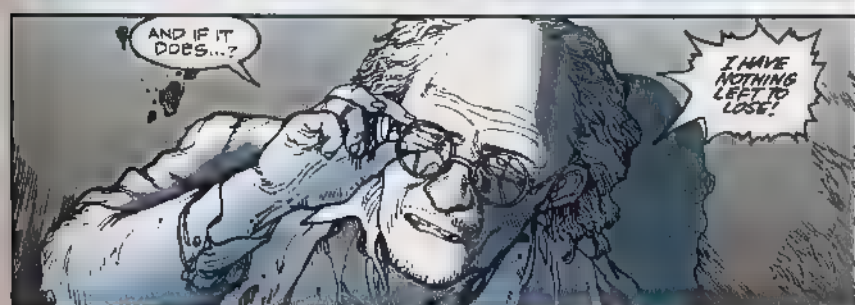
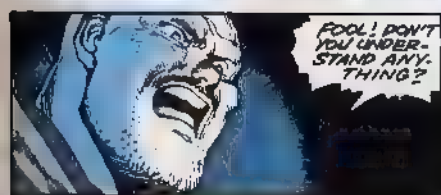
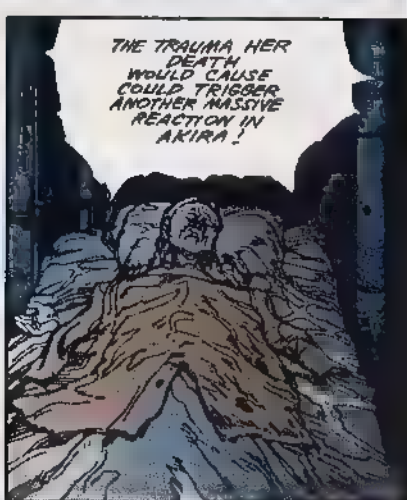
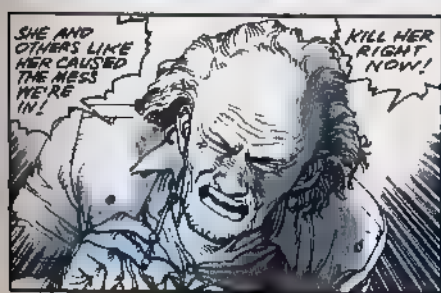
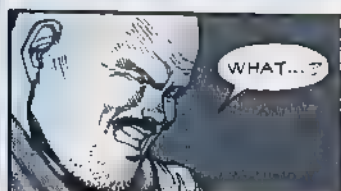
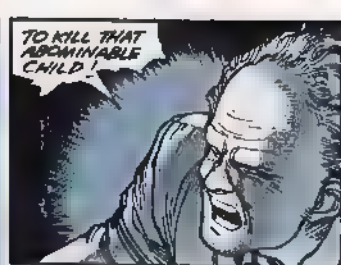
Klatter













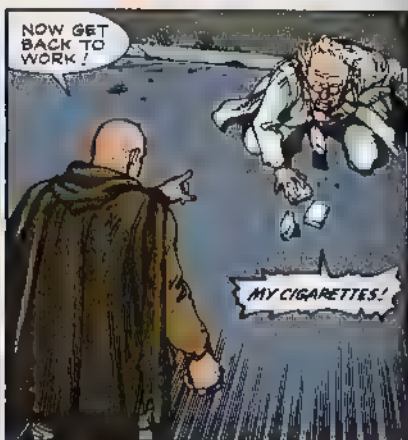
THAT DOESN'T
CHANGE
THINGS

I HAVE A GREAT
DEAL LEFT TO ACCOMPLISH
BEFORE I LET YOU TAKE
A STEP THAT WOULD END
MY LIFE !

SIGH



BY THE WAY...



NOW GET
BACK TO
WORK !

MY CIGARETTES!

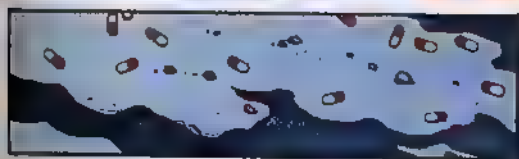
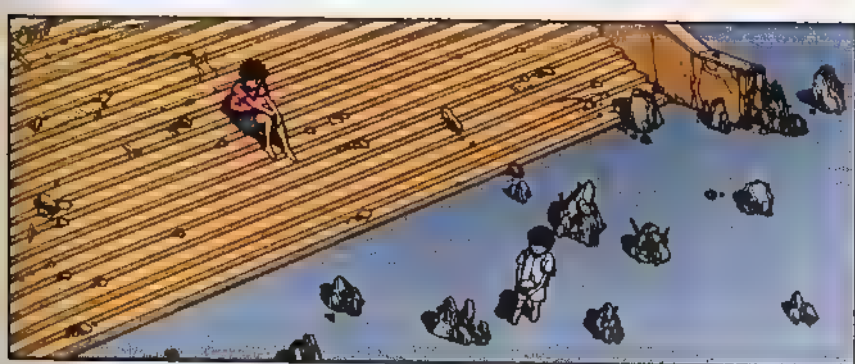


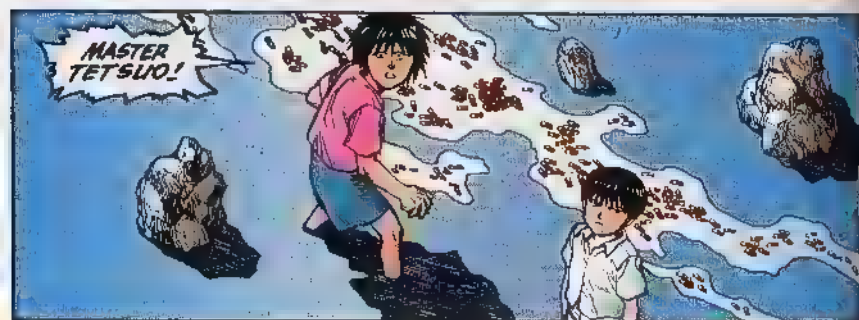
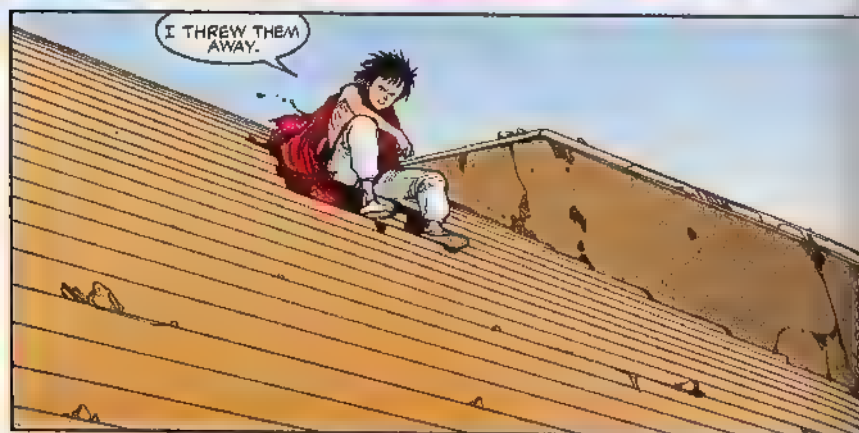
I BROUGHT
YOU THESE!

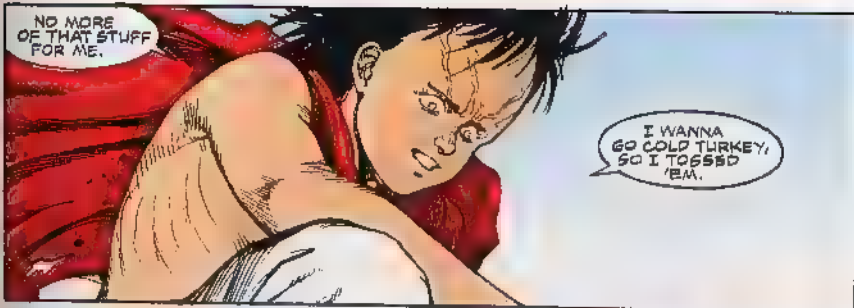


IF I
CAN
JUST
FIND A
MATCH...



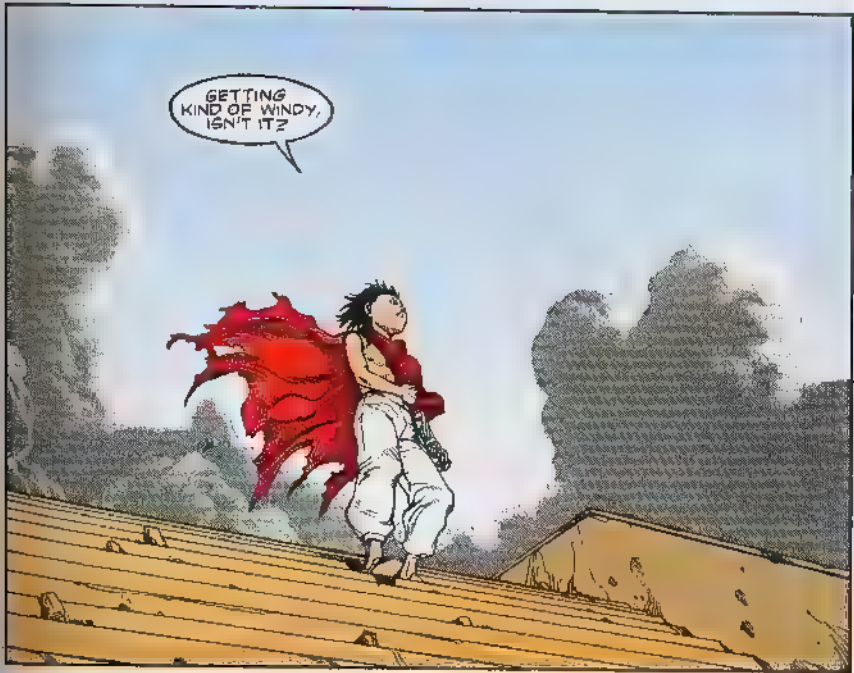
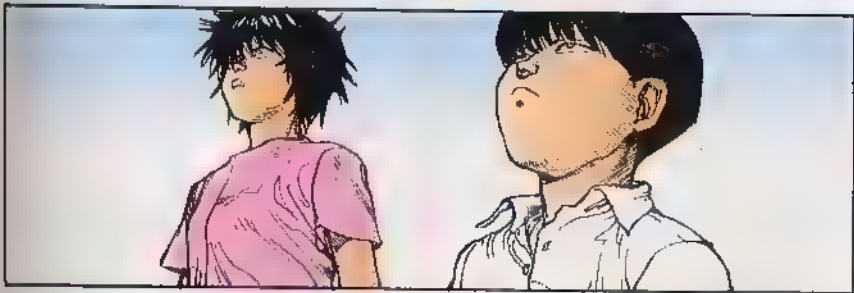




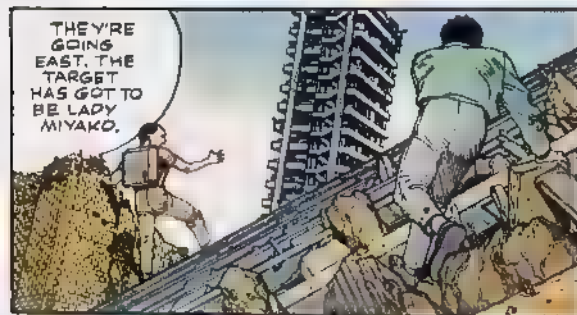
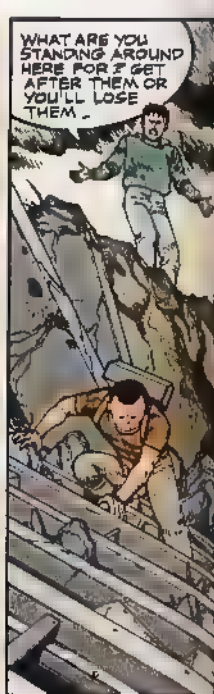


NO MORE
OF THAT STUFF
FOR ME.

I WANNA
GO COLD TURKEY,
SO I TOSSED
'EM.



GETTING
KIND OF WINDY,
ISN'T IT?



DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
ANY-
ONE
STAYED
BEHIND...



BUT EVEN BY
HIMSELF, AKIRA
IS DANGEROUS.



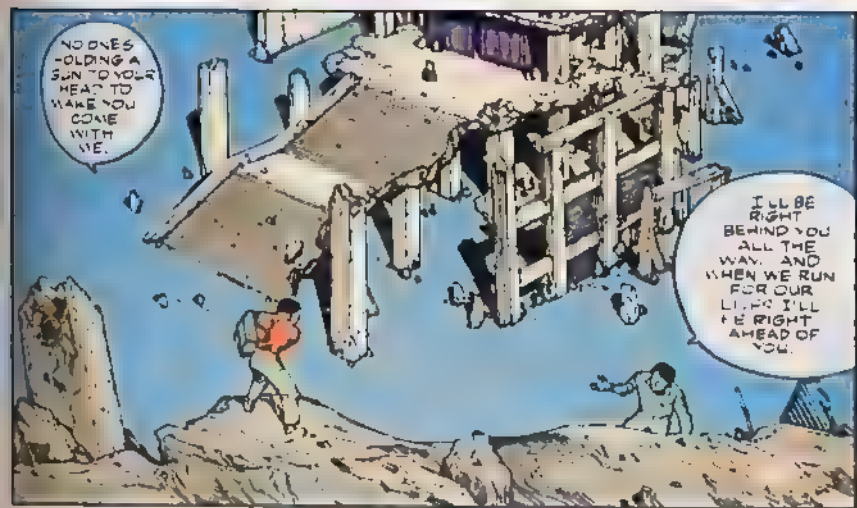
I'VE GOTTA ADMIRE
YOUR COURAGE,
EVEN IF IT IS
BASED ON TOTAL
IGNORANCE



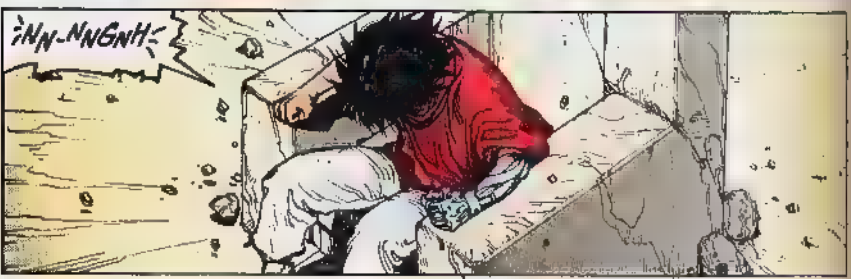
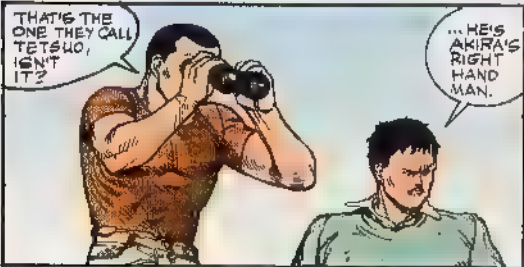
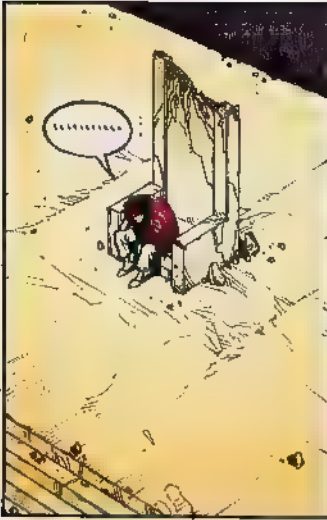
I WANT TO
FIND OUT
WHY

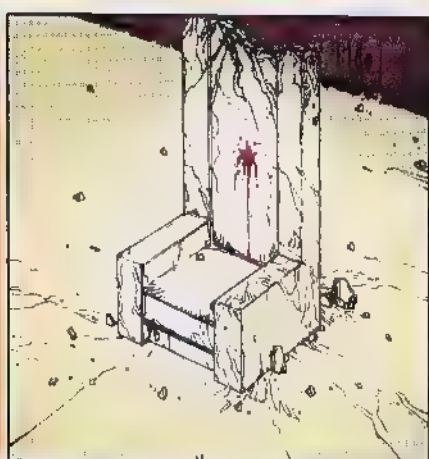
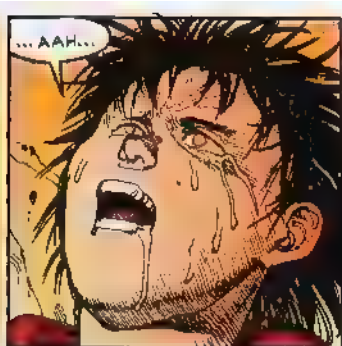


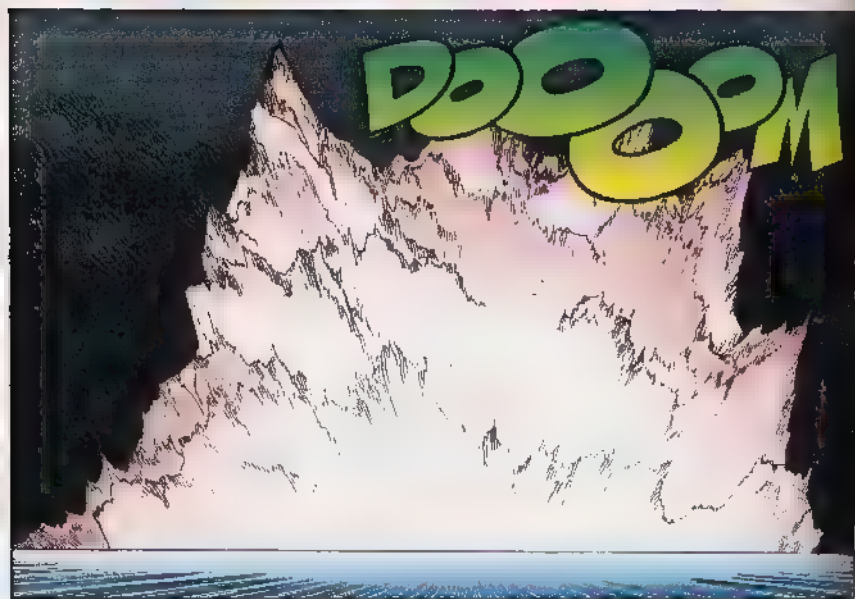
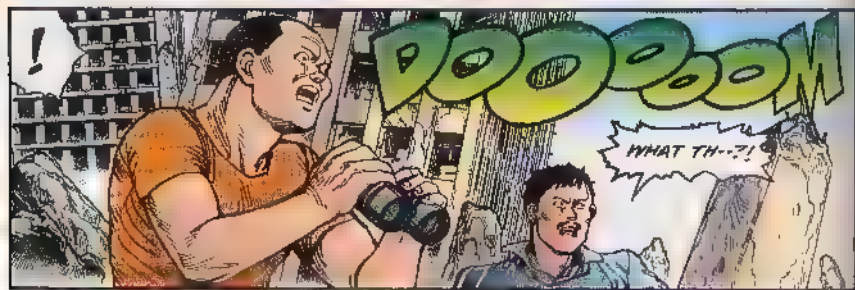
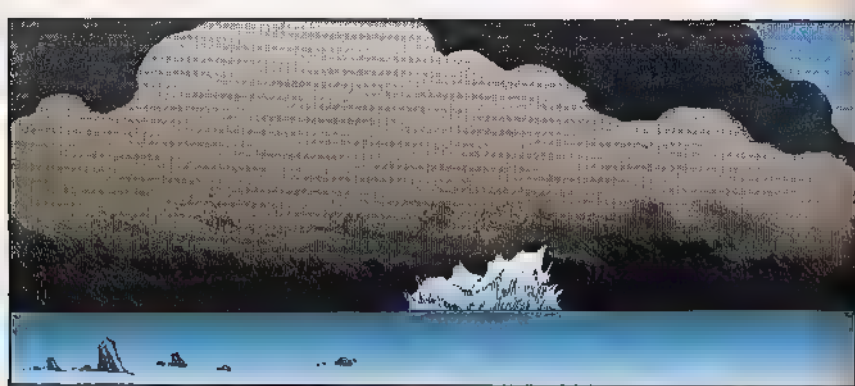
NO ONE
-OLDING A
GUN TO YOUR
HEAD TO
MAKE YOU
COME
WITH ME.

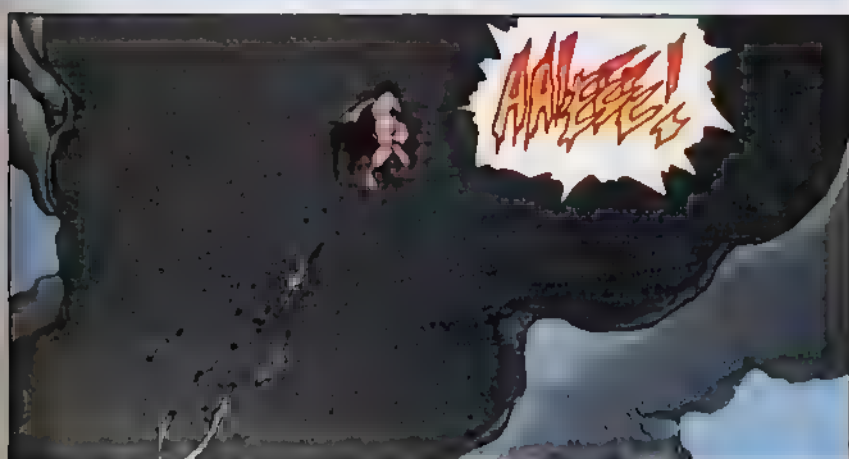
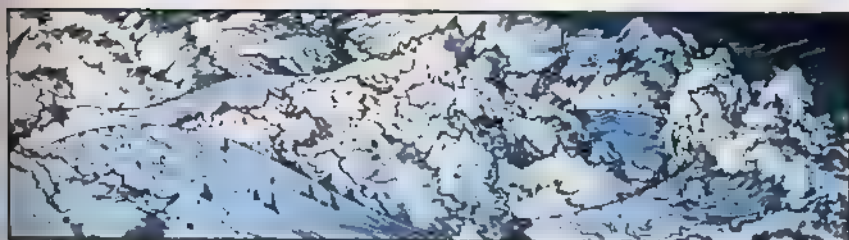
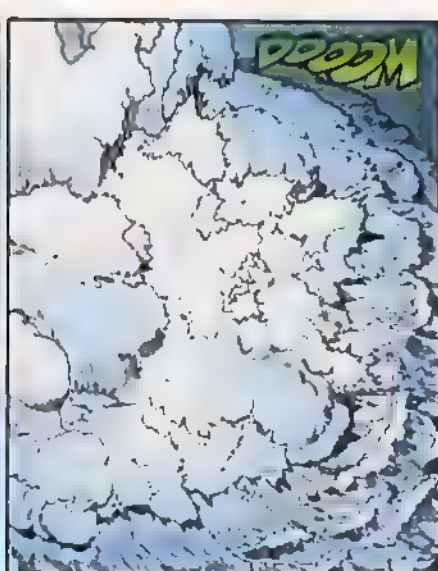
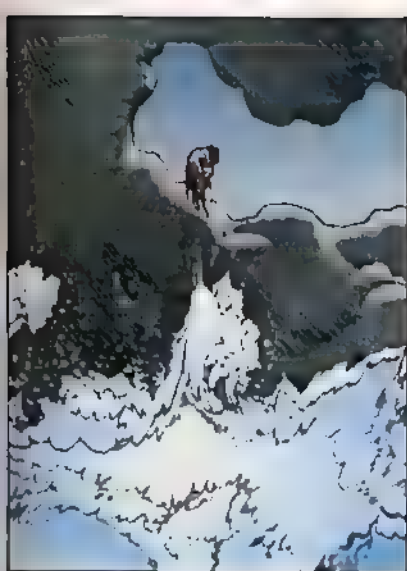


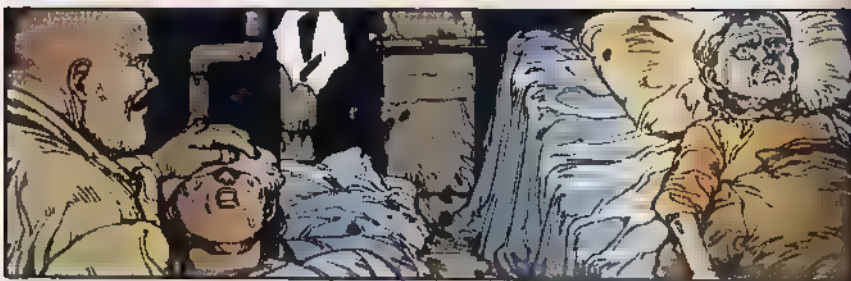
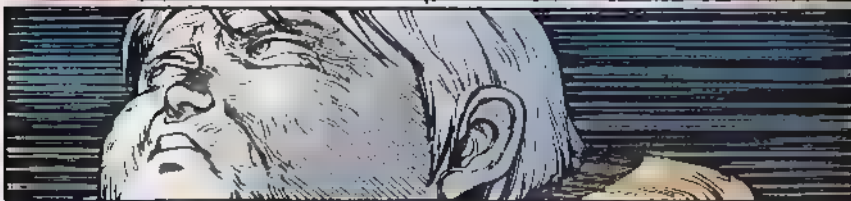
I'LL BE
RIGHT
BEHIND YOU
ALL THE
WAY. AND
WHEN WE RUN
FOR OUR
LIVES I'LL
BE RIGHT
AHEAD OF
YOU.



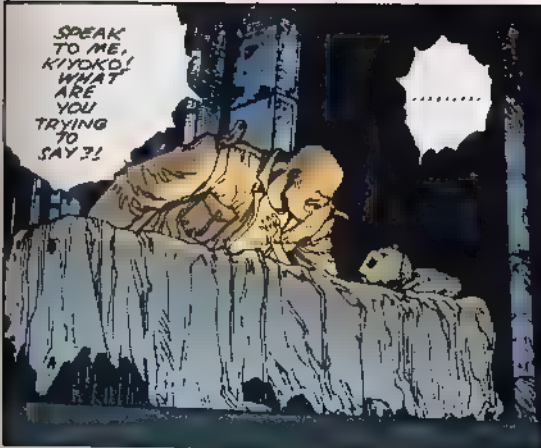








SPEAK
TO ME,
KIYOKO!
WHAT
ARE
YOU
TRYING
TO
SAY?!

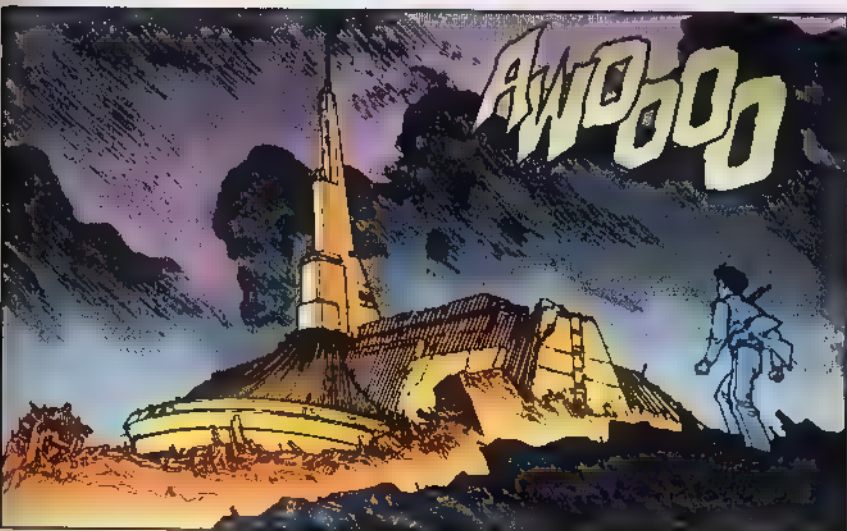


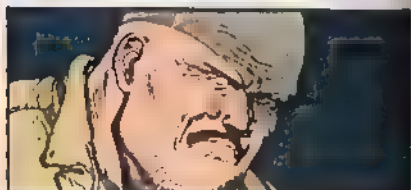
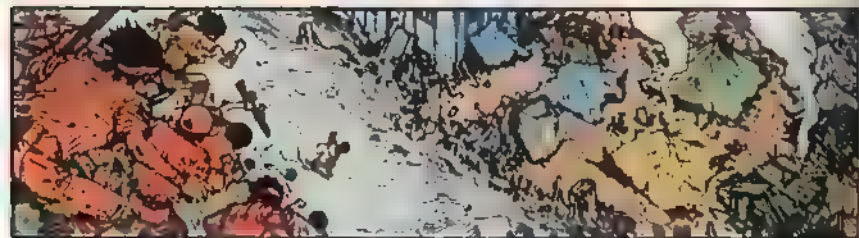
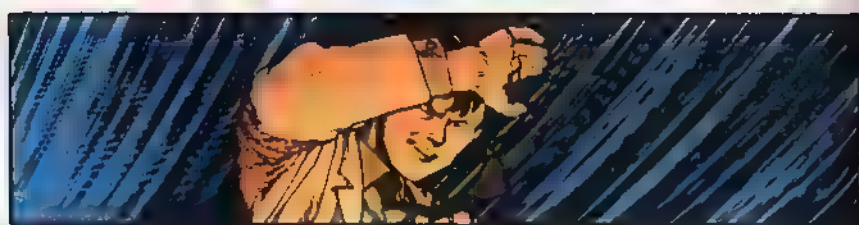
MIYAKO?!

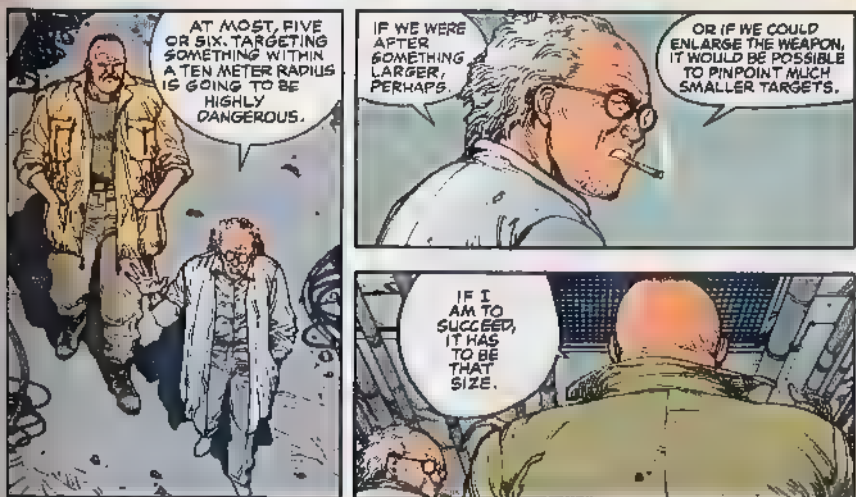
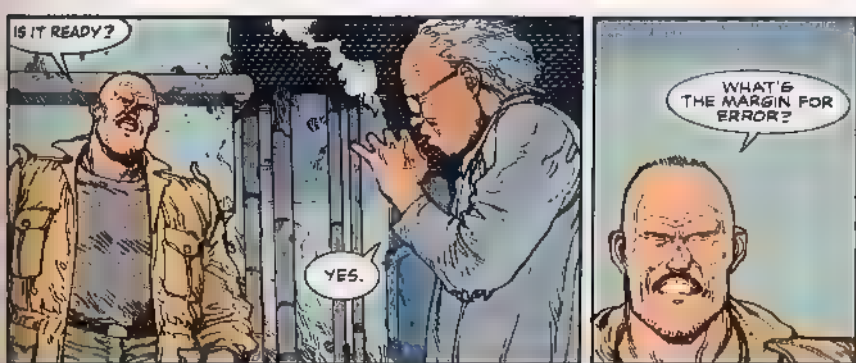
YOU WANT
ME TO GO TO
MIYAKO'S
TEMPLE?!

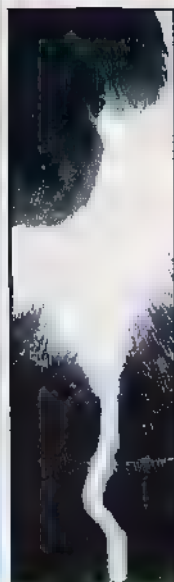
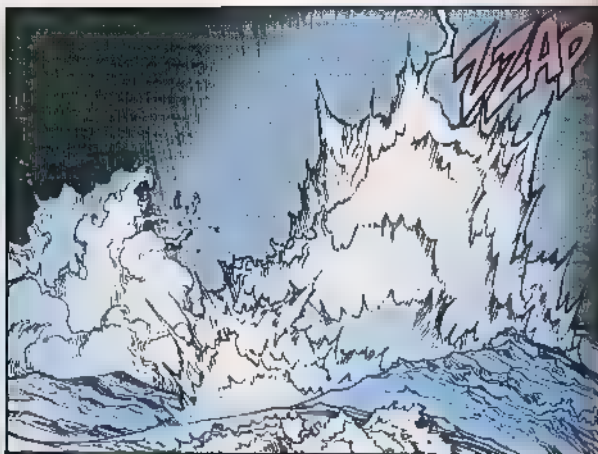
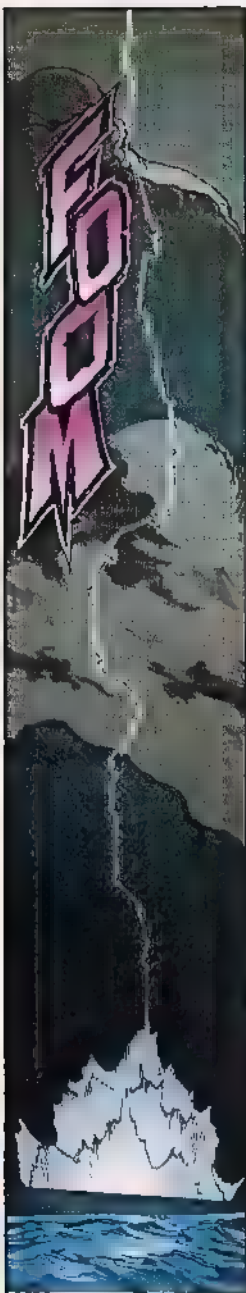


AWOOO

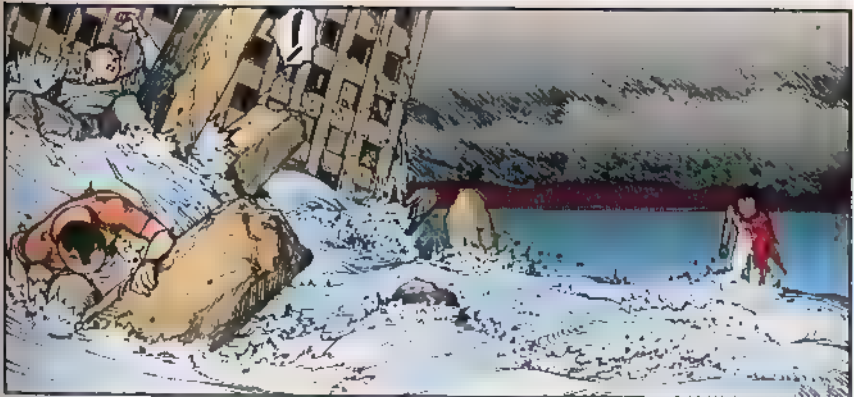
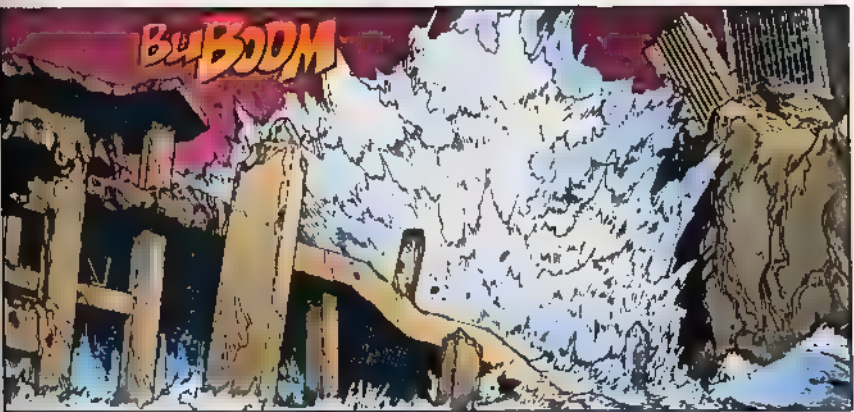


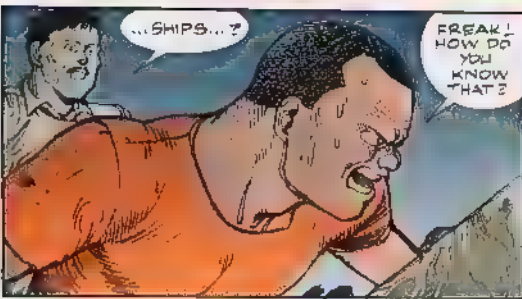
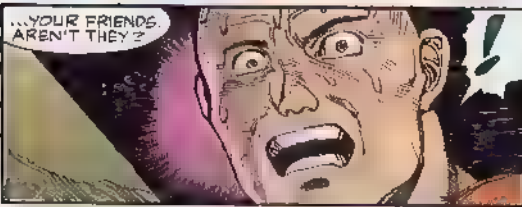
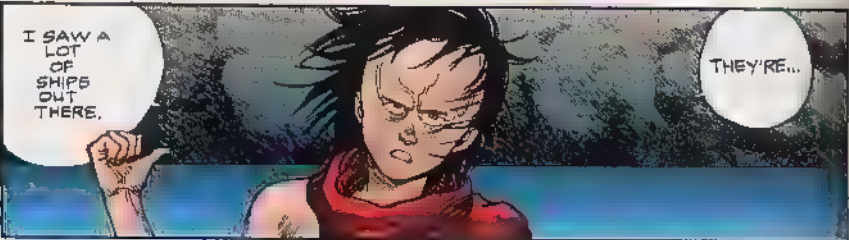
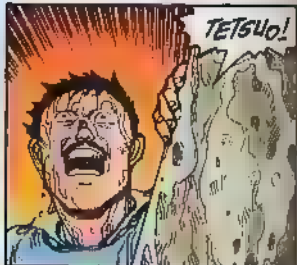
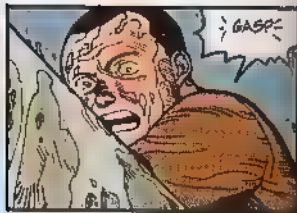
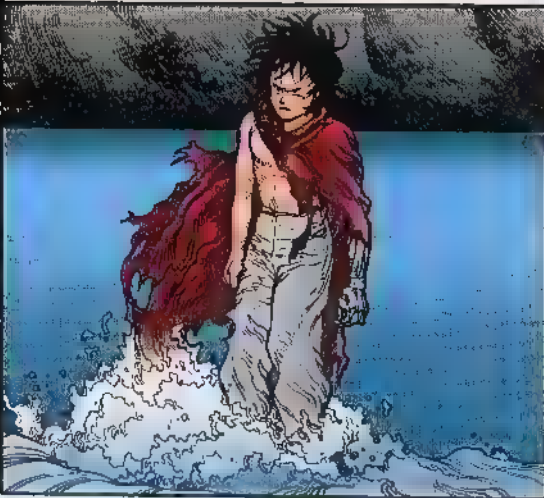


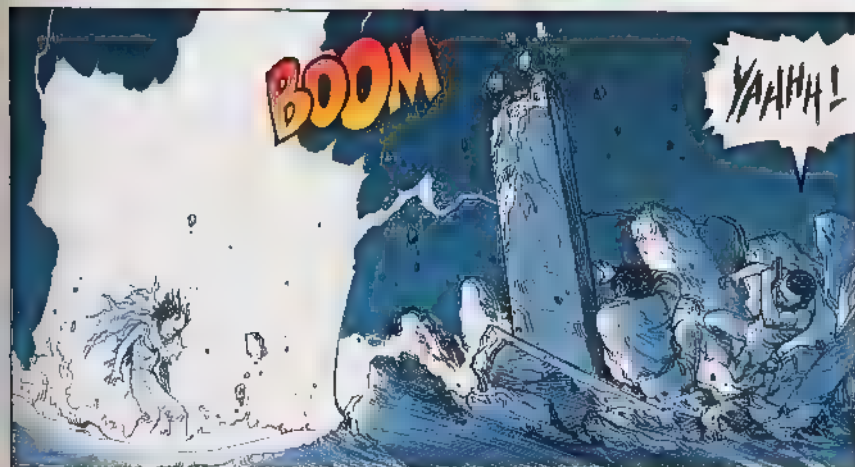
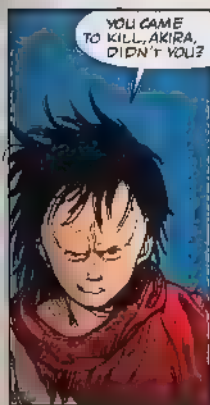
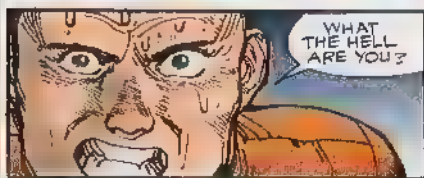


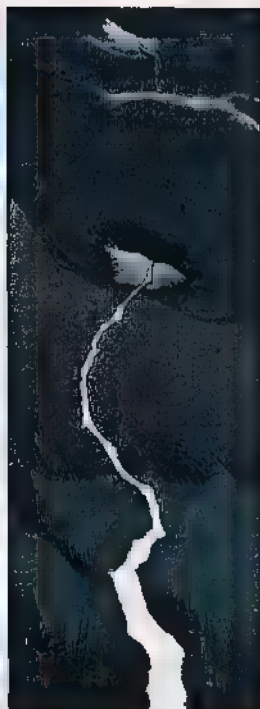


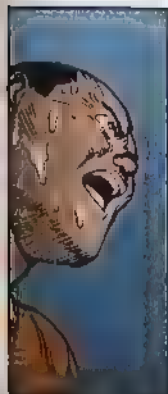
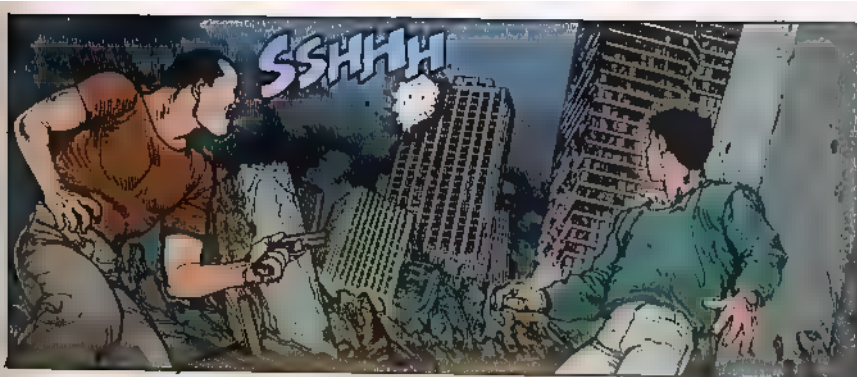
BOOM











WEREN'T
YOU LISTENING?
I SAID MY
BUSINESS IS
WITH MIYAKO.



GET
HER
OUT
HERE
!



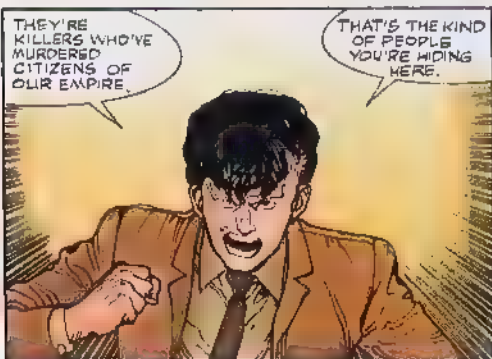
I REGRET TO INFORM
YOU THAT OUR LADY
MAY NOT BE DISTURBED
WHILE SHE IS
SLEEPING.



A WOMAN AND CHILD CAME
HERE LATELY. WE DEMAND
THAT YOU HAND THEM OVER
TO US.

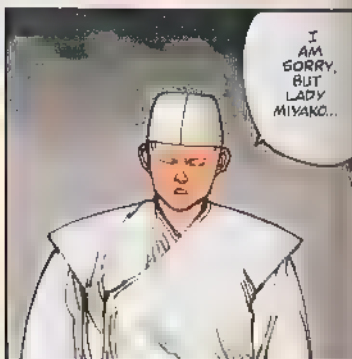


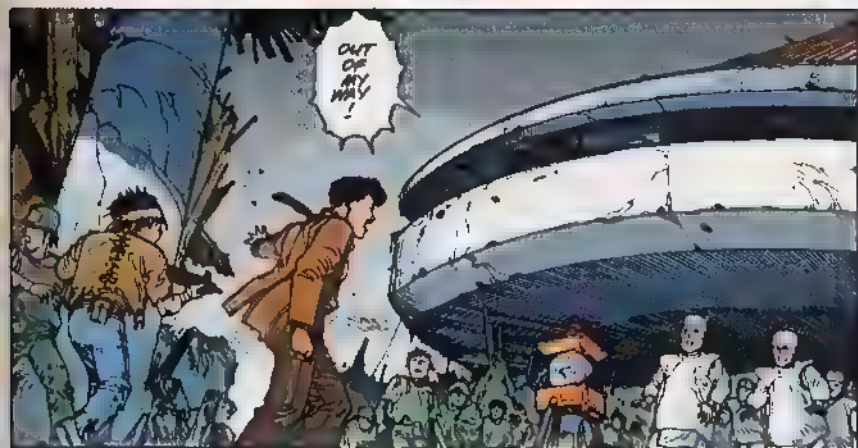
THEY'RE
KILLERS WHO'VE
MURDERED
CITIZENS OF
OUR EMPIRE.



THAT'S THE KIND
OF PEOPLE
YOU'RE HIDING
HERE.

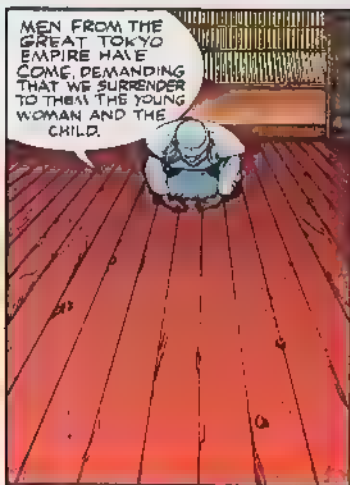
I
AM
SORRY,
BUT
LADY
MIYAKO...



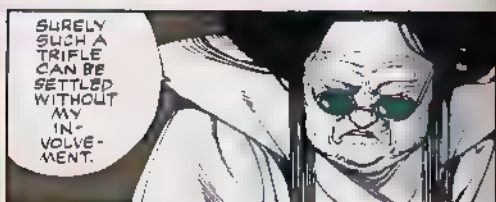




WHAT IS IT?!



MEN FROM THE
GREAT TOKYO
EMPIRE HAVE
COME, DEMANDING
THAT WE SURRENDER
TO THEM THE YOUNG
WOMAN AND THE
CHILD.



SURELY
SUCH A
TRIFLE
CAN BE
SETTLED
WITHOUT
MY
IN-
VOLVEMENT.

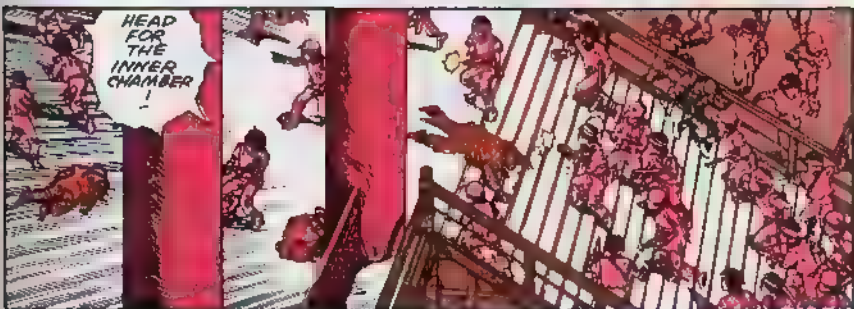


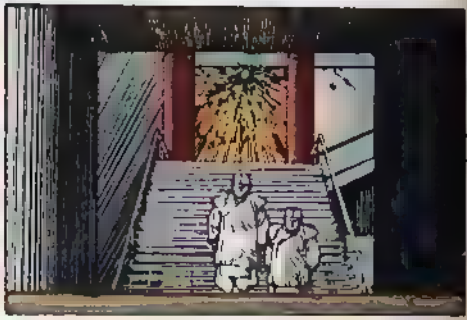
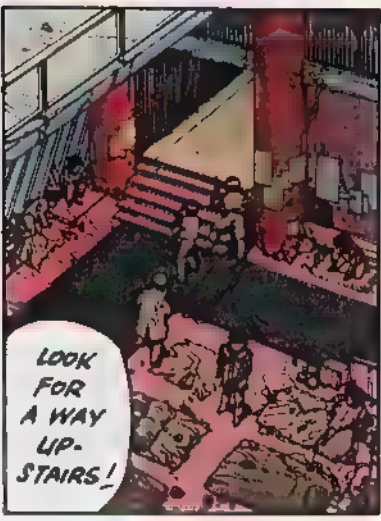
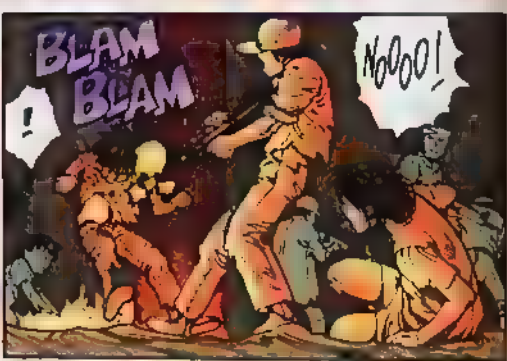
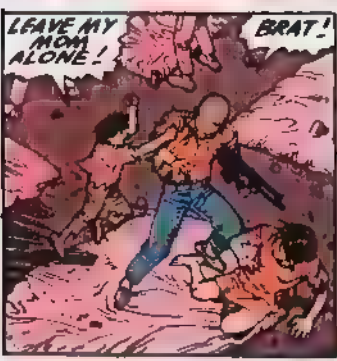
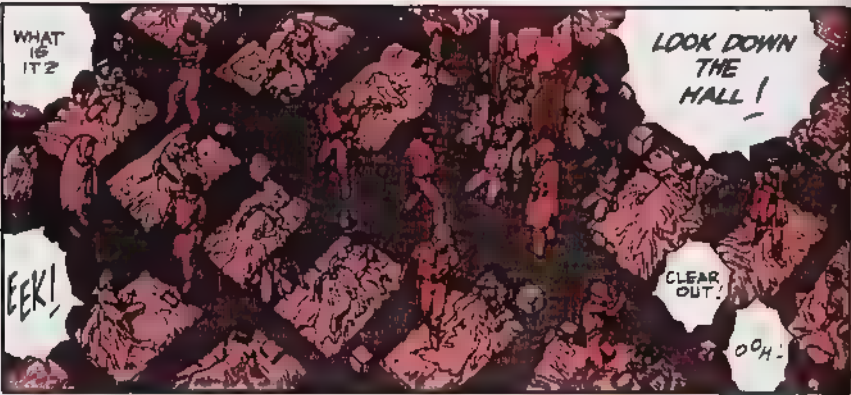
MY
LADY

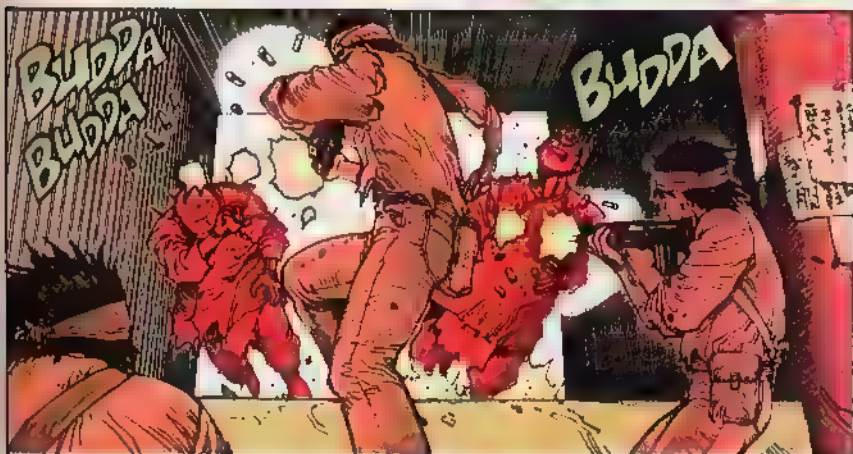
...THEY'RE
USING
GUNS.



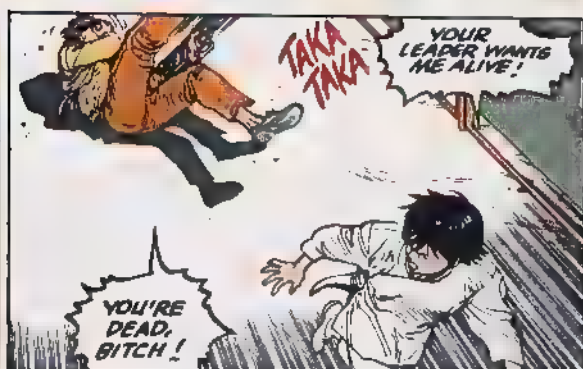
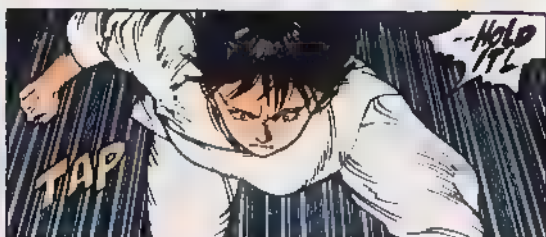
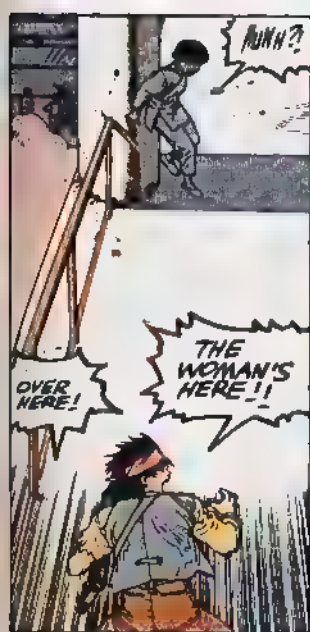
WHA-AT?!











THE BLACK
BUTTON UNDER
THE GRIP IS THE
MAIN SWITCH.

TAKE
AIM AT
YOUR TARGET
AND PRESS THE
RED BUTTON.

IT WILL EMIT
A BEAM THAT
STRIKES
YOUR
TARGET
AND
MEASURES
THE
COORDINATES

... AND THEN
SENDS THE
DATA TO SOL.

THEN YOU
PULL THE
TRIGGER.

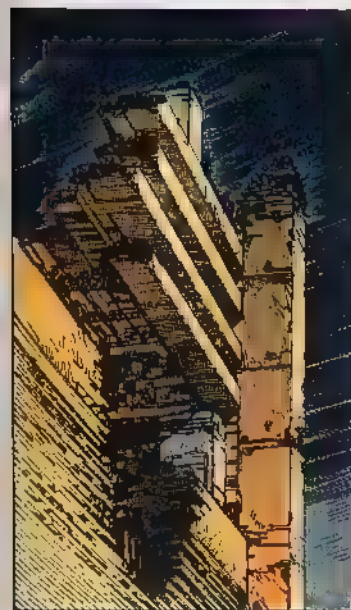
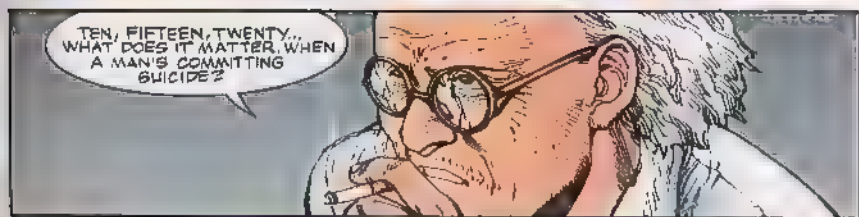
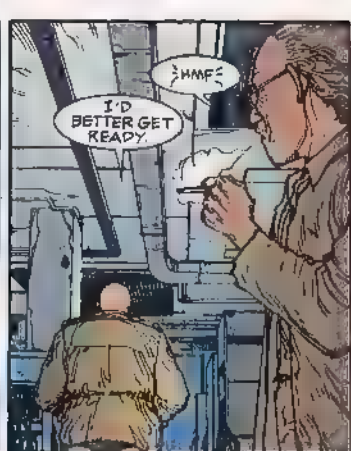
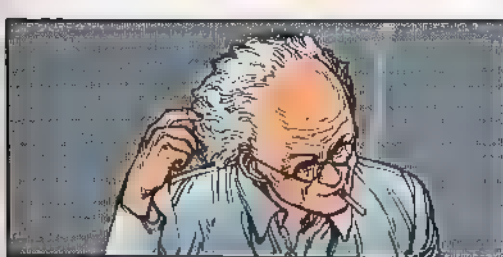
HOW DO I
CHANGE
TARGETS?

TURN OFF THE
MAIN SWITCH
AND START
AGAIN.

FOR YOUR OWN
PROTECTION, LET
ME REPEAT THAT
YOU SHOULD NOT
BE WITHIN
TEN METERS
OF YOUR
TARGET.

NO
CLOSER
THAN
THAT.

HAVE YOU
CONFIRMED
YOUR
CALCULATIONS?



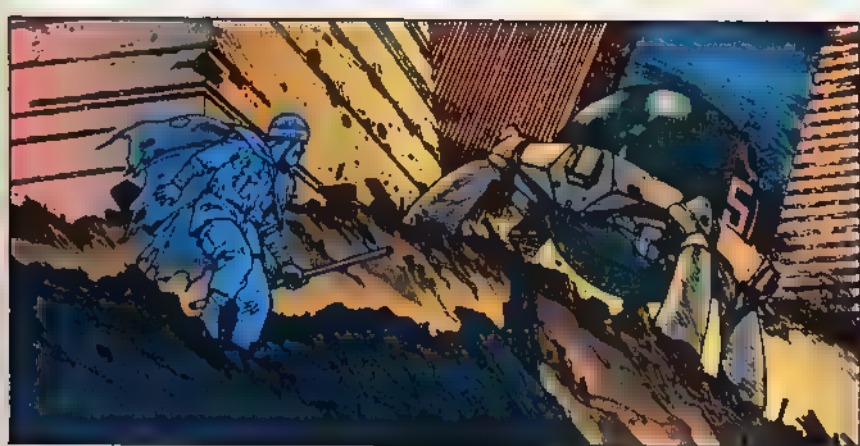
OWOOOOOOOOOO

THERE'S
A BIG
STORM
COMING.
WILL
YOU BE
OKAY?

IT
WILL
MAKE
MY
PLANS
EASIER

LET'S GO,
KIYOKO!

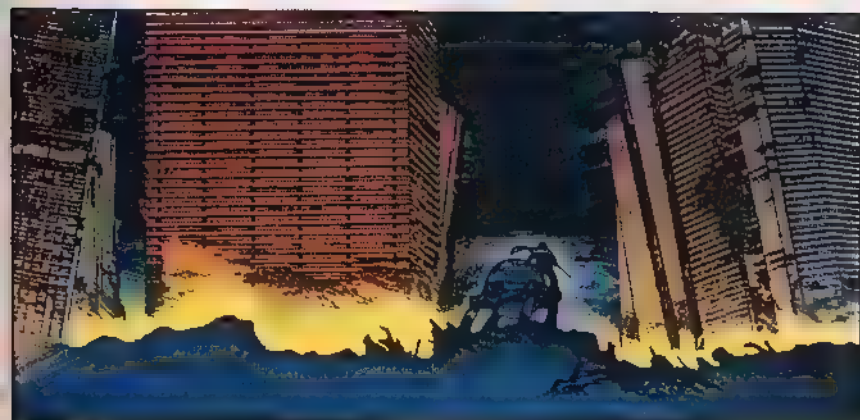
KLANK

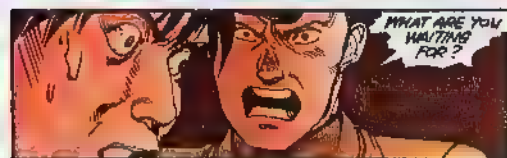
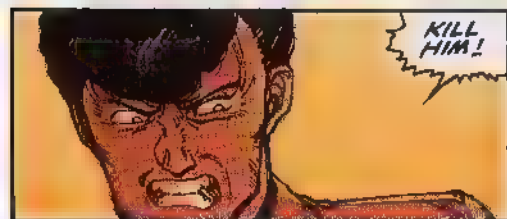
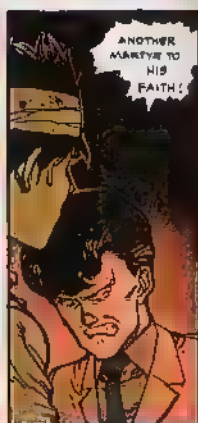
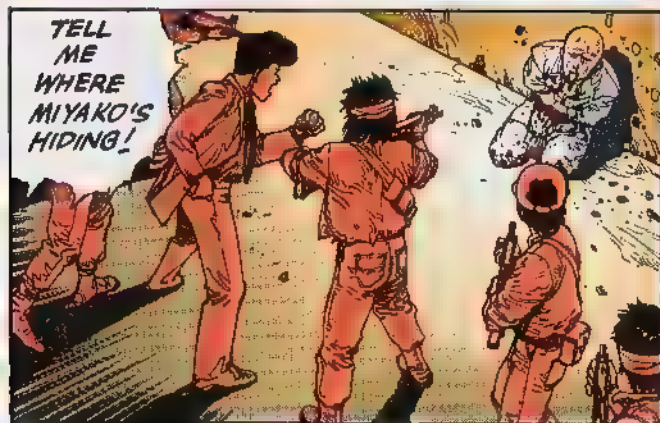
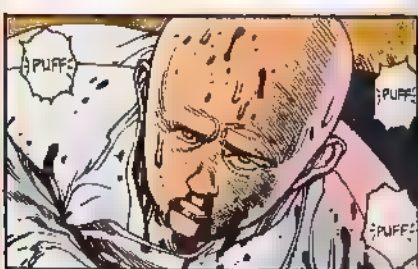


WHAT ABOUT
THE OTHER
ONE, THE
WOMAN?
YOU KNOW
HER WOUND'S
INFECT-
ED.



IF ALL
GOES WELL,
I'LL BE
BACK
IN A DAY
OR TWO
WITH
MED-
CINE
FOR
HER!





NEXT ISSUE: **BLOOD SIEGE**

KABA

Several months ago, readers were introduced to **KABA**, the collected illustrations of **Katsuhiro Otomo**. The book has since sold thousands of copies, and readers' reaction has been extraordinary. Hundreds of readers have written to Kodansha with their comments, some of which follow:

"A beautifully done book—worth every penny (or yen) of the price."

—**Scott Russo**
Brooklyn, NY

"Great! Excellent! I can't keep my hands and eyes from it!! Inspirational! The design is clean and the layout superb. A great variety of work. Let's see some more!!"

—**James Hiroshi Mayeda**
San Gabriel, CA

"Very entertaining, interesting, and informative book. The translated manga was great. The best is that it's in English. You should publish more books like these and others of Otomo's comics in the U.S."

—**Marc F. Brun**
Sylmar, CA

"Certainly one of the best illustrator's books of the year."

—**Jean-Pierre Dupont**
Brussels, Belgium

"Brilliant! Katsuhiro Otomo is a superb technician. It was an enlightening experience from the visual point-of-view."

—**Edward D. Lee**
New York, NY



"An amazing collection of art! I look forward to seeing more collections of Katsuhiro Otomo's artwork."

—Ross Brady
Rockville, MD

"Beautiful work and nice packaging. Quality printing. Beautiful work."

—Kee Koo
Forest Hills, NY

"Fantastic! It should be an annual event!"

—Joachim H. Naliga
Brooklyn, NY

"Excellent! A true compendium of a great talent—one of the best, if not the best, illustrations ever—I am honored to have previewed this book and to own it."

—Solomon C. Payne, II
Detroit, MI

"It is one of Katsuhiro Otomo's best volumes! I only wish there were more of his illustration books!"

—Weyandt Dettis
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

The English-language version of the animated film **AKIRA** will play in the following cities during the month of June:

MAITLAND, FL (near ORLANDO)
ENZIAN THEATER
May 29–June 10

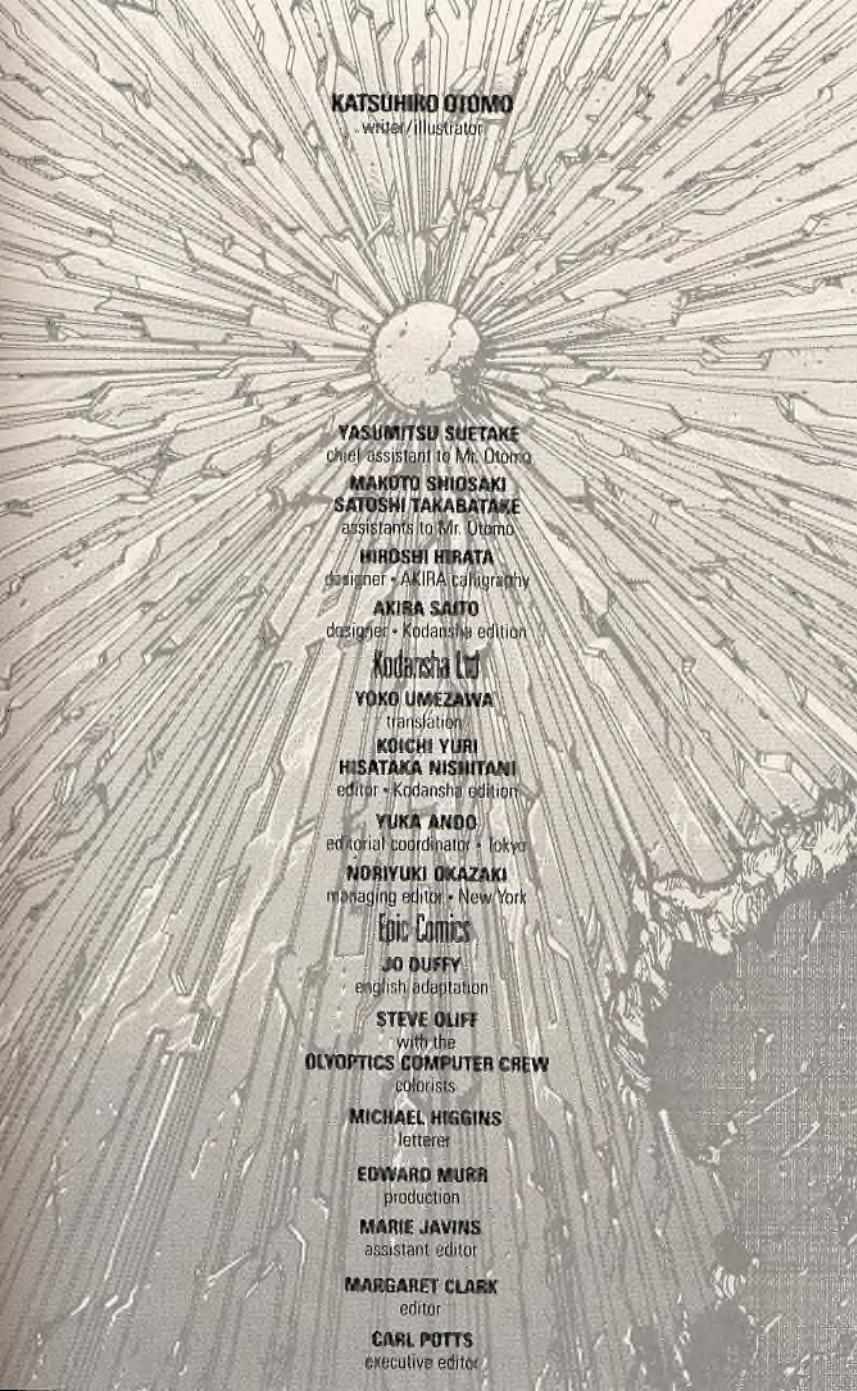
SAN ANTONIO, TX
CROSSROADS THEATER
June 1–14

SACRAMENTO, CA
TOWER SACRAMENTO THEATER
June 8–10

SPOKANE, WA
MAGIC LANTERN
June 8–21

TAMPA, FL
TAMPA THEATER
June 15–21

ROCHESTER, NY
LITTLE THEATER
June 15–28



KATSUHIRO OTOMO

writer/illustrator

YASUMITSU SUETAKE

chief assistant to Mr. Otomo

MAKOTO SHIOSAKI

SATOSHI TAKABATAKE

assistants to Mr. Otomo

HIROSHI HIRATA

designer • AKIRA calligraphy

AKIRA SAITO

designer • Kodansha edition

Kodansha Ltd

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Neo-Tokyo is not at war—but one would

never know it from the battles that rage in the city. There is the Colonel, fighting for the lives of Chiyoko and Kiyoko. There is Tetsuo, facing off against the foreign warships positioned ominously off the coast. And there is the army of the Emperor Akira, marching on the temple of Lady Miyako, setting brother against brother in a conflict that looses the shattered city's hold on survival...and sends it spiraling down into a dark night of slaughter.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

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